

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SCS-03 MCT-01 DHA-02

AID-05 CCO-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05

SP-02 OC-06 OPR-02 PA-01 USSS-00 PRS-01 SCA-01

A-01 OMB-01 SS-15 SY-05 /077 W

-----120753Z 032847 /15

O 110955Z APR 77

FM AMCONSUL KARACHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1593

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL LAHORE IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PK

SUBJ: SECURITY SITUATION IN KARACHI

1. AN ORGANIZATION CALLING ITSELF THE KARACHI STUDENTS
ACTION COMMITTEE, HEADED BY MAHMOOD ALLAHAWVOZBKV#

PRESIDENT OF THE KARACHI UNIVERSITY STUDENTS UNION.
KQDO#CLAIMING TO SPEAK FOR A LARGE NUMBER OF STUDENT ORGANI-
ZATIONS OF VARYING SHADES OF OPINION, CALLED FOR A HARTAL
IN KARACHI APRIL 11 SPECIFICALLY IN SYMPATHY WITH THOSE
KILLED IN LAHORE APRIL 9 AND GENERALLY TO FURTHER "THE
CAUSE OF DEMOCRACY." THE REOPENING OF EDUCATIONAL
INSTITUTIONS AND FRESH ELECTIONS WERE DEMANDED. THE
PNA ENDORSED THE STRIKE CALL AS DID THE KARACHI DISTRICT
BAR ASSOCIATION.

2. THE STRIKE CALL DID NOT GO OUT UNTIL APRIL 10,
MAINLY THROUGH THE MEDIUM OF PNA HANDBILLS AND WORD
OF MOUTH. NEVERTHELESS THE HARTAL IS SUBSTANTIALLY
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EFFECTIVE AS OF MID-AFTERNOON, AFTER A SLOW START.
PUBLIC TRANSPORT IS GREATLY REDUCED, CUTTING DEEPLY
INTO ATTENDANCE AT OFFICES AND FACTORIES. SHOPS ARE CLOSED
IN MANY AREAS.

3. THIS HARTAL FEATURES ENERGETIC EFFORTS BY STUDENTS
TO HALT VEHICULAR TRAFFIC AND FORCE THE CLOSURE OF

BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS. AT LEAST SPORADICALLY TRAFFIC ON DRIGH ROAD, LEADING TO THE AIRPORT, IS INTERRUPTED. A CONSULATE VEHICLE MAKING A POUCH RUN TO THE AIRPORT WAS STOPPED AT 1100 BY A CROWD OF YOUTHS BUT EVENTUALLY ALLOWED TO PASS. THERE WERE NO POLICE IN EVIDENCE. STONING OF PASSING VEHICLES AND BARRICADES TO TRAFFIC ARE REPORTED IN THE LIAQUATABAD AND NAZIMABAD SECTIONS OF WEST KARACHI AND ONE STONING EPISODE IN THE DEFENCE HOUSING SOCIETY. CLASHES WITH THE POLICE HAVE BEEN TAKING PLACE IN THE BURNS ROAD AREA SINCE MID-MORNING, AND TEARGAS HAS BEEN EMPLOYED. ONE BANK BRANCH HAS BEEN ASSAULTED AND POLICE GUARDS HAVE APPEARED AT MOST BANKS, PRESUMABLY IN REACTION TO ORGANIZED ATTACKS ON BANKS IN LAHORE APRIL 9. SCATTERED CASES OF ARSON ARE REPORTED IN SITE AND LIAQUATABAD, INCLUDING ONE CINEMA.

4. WHEN THE NEWS OF THE MAJOR DISTURBANCES IN LAHORE APRIL 9 REACHED KARACHI LATE THAT AFTERNOON, SYMPATHETIC DEMONSTRATIONS AND RIOTS BROKE OUT IN KARACHI (AND OTHER SIND CITIES, NOTABLY HYDERABAD) AND SHOPS AND MARKETS WERE CLOSED IN VARIOUS AREAS. THE POLICE HAD TO RESORT TO TEARGAS, LATHI CHARGES AND IN SOME PLACES GUNFIRE TO RESTORE ORDER. THE SITUATION WORSENER APRIL 10 WITH VIOLENT DEMONSTRATIONS IN MANY PARTS OF THE CITY, NECESSITATING FIRING BY THE POLICE THAT RESULTED IN AT LEAST FIVE OFFICIALLY ACKNOWLEDGED DEATHS. VEHICLES AND OFFICES WERE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BURNED IN A NUMBER OF PLACES. OFFICES AND BUILDINGS, INCLUDED ONE BANK, WERE SET AFIRE ALSO, AND STONES WERE THROWN AT PASSING VEHICLES AND THE POLICE. THE TROUBLES OF APRIL 10 WERE MORE WIDESPREAD GEOGRAPHICALLY THAN ANY SINCE THE MARCH 7 ELECTION DAY, OCCURRING IN LIAQUATABAD, NAZIMABAD, MALIR, BURNS ROAD, MAHMOODABAD, DRIGH COLONY, ORANGI, KORANGI, RANCHORE LINES AND PATHAN COLONY.

5. SO FAR AS WE CAN DETERMINE THE ARMY WAS NOT INVOLVED IN APPLYING FORCE AGAINST DEMONSTRATORS APRIL 9 AND 10 OR TODAY, BUT HAS BEEN PLAYING A PASSIVE DEFENSIVE ROLE, AS SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN THE CASE FOR THE PAST WEEK OR MORE.
MOORE

NOTE BY OC/T: KARACHI 1702(8)AS RECEIVED. CORRECTION TO FOLLOW.

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Reason:
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